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BILLES DON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1940

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

of

BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

J. Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Camb.

Sanitary Inspector

S. Shimmin

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute
Member of Institute of Hygiene

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ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report respecting the health and sanitary conditions of your District for the year ending 31st. December, 1940.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Ministry of Health, and in the interest of economy the Report has been made as brief and concise as possible.

It will be readily understood that routine work has often to take second place to the serious and urgent health problems arising during the course of the War. Every effort is made to safeguard the public health as far as possible in these times.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

John Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.F.H.,
Camb.

Medical Officer of Health.



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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) 49,628

Registrar-General's estimate of:-

Resident population mid-1940 8,000 *fairly* X

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according
to Rate Book 2,100 X

Ratable Value £33,321

Sum represented by a penny rate... .. £121

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District is essentially agricultural, most of the land being grazed.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Legitimate	M.	54	F.	39
	Illegitimate	M.	1	F.	1
			<u>55</u>	<u>40</u>	

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population
Mid-1940 12.7

Still Births	Legitimate	M.	4	Total	4
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Birth Rate for England and Wales 15.15

Deaths	M. 50	F. 54	Total	104
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Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average populations 14.58

Comparative Death Rate (i.e. allowing for age and
sex distribution) 14.58

Death Rate for England and Wales 14.3

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the
Registrar-General's Short List):-

No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	-	Nil
No. 30 Other maternal causes	-	Nil

All infants per 1,000 live births... .. 52.6

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales 55

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CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>All causes</u>	<u>Males</u> <u>50</u>	<u>Females</u> <u>54</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	1
Influenza	3	1
Measles	-	1
Cancer of b. cav. and uterus... ..	-	6
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	-
Cancer of all other sites	3	4
Diabetes	3	1
Intra. cranial vascular lesions	4	6
Heart disease	13	11
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	-
Bronchitis	3	7
Pneumonia	1	1
Ulcer of duodenum	1	-
Appendicitis	1	-
Other digestive disorders	-	2
Nephritis	1	1
Premature Birth,	2	3
Congenital malformation, birth injury	1	-
Suicide	1	1
Road Traffic accidents... ..	2	-
All other causes	7	7

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE
AREA

1. (1) Public Health Officers of the Authority

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire and Rutland combined Districts in which this District is included.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor and is a whole-time Officer.

(ii) Laboratory Facilities

The following examinations from your area were carried out during the year in the County Laboratory, Leicester:-

Milk Examinations (bacteriological)	83
Swabs for Diphtheria	34
Sputa for T.B.	13
Blood for Wassermann Test	7
Urine (general and bacteriological)	5
Urine for T.B.	2
Hair for Ringworm	1
Differential blood counts	1
Miscellaneous	1

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (1) WATER

Number of samples taken for analysis:-

(a) from wells	Nil
(b) from pipe supply	Nil

Number of wells:-

(a) closed	Nil
(b) cleansed, repaired, etc.	Nil

Number of cases in which pipe supply was substituted for well water	74
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Number of Parishes without a piped water supply	19
--	----

Number of Parishes with piped water supply	
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(a) from public mains	8
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(b) from private Reservoirs	9
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Particulars of the quality of existing Supplies:-

(a) Public mains	Good
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(b) Private piped supplies	Fair
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There was a persistent shortage of water at Tilton. One public well is to be improved. Apparent shortage by reason of bad distribution at Owston.

The Council should adopt and improve the Owston supply as suggested in the Surveyor's scheme in 1936.

Connections to mains are still being made in Billesdon, Houghton, Great Glen and Burton Overy. In view of the very bad analysis of many Billesdon supplies the slow rate of connection to the new mains is noticeable. The cost of analysis of up-to-date samples with a view to legal proceedings against owners deters such action, but that is the only course.

Water tanks are to be purchased to distribute fresh water to householders in any place where water becomes contaminated. Selected springs are to be improved to form the source from which water can be carted.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Number of cesspools constructed during the year	Nil
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Number of cesspools abolished during the year	Nil
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Number of cesspools in District at end of 1940	399
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Particulars of any extension during the year:-

(a) Sewerage:-

Private enterprise extension, Scraptoft Lane

(b) Sewage disposal - none

(c) There are no schemes at present under consideration.

2. (1) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number in District at end of 1940:-

(1)	Privies	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
(2)	Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	1412
(3)	Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	568

Number of Privies and Pail Closets converted to the water carriage system during the year ... 1911

Number of privies converted to pail closets during the year ... 21

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is removed and disposed of as follows:-

Contract Great Glen and Burton Overy - disposal by crude dumping.

Direct labour, Thurnby, Houghton, Stoughton, Scraftoft, Hungarton and Tilton - disposal by controlled tipping.

Means adopted for the cleansing of earth closets privies, ashpits and cesspools:-

Contract - Great Glen and Burton Overy.

Direct labour - Thurnby, Houghton, Stoughton, Tilton, Scraftoft, Hungarton and Billesdon. Disposal by trenching into arable land for night soil and disposal on grass for cesspools.

The number of additional persons in the parishes under the joint scavenging scheme actually necessitates the employment of twelve men instead of the usual eight. By reason of military calling-up, etc. we have been working with five men only, thus the usual regular emptyings cannot be carried out. Demand for salvage from refuse absorbs part of the time of the remaining men. The refuse produce from most evacuee families is noticeably larger than from local population, probably due to "town habits" not adjusted to rural life. Additional population per house without proportionate increased sanitary provision imposes a great additional load burden on the men at each call.

(iii) Salvage

Salvage is collected by the Local Authority in the parishes within the Joint Scavenging Scheme, collection being carried out during the normal refuse collection rounds. Paper, tins, etc. collected by Joint Scavenging men when notified of an accumulation and as the time permits, in the parishes not covered by the Joint Scavenging Scheme. Scrap metal is collected from Village Dumps organised by the Ministry of Supply with Voluntary Organisers in charge.

Salvage material consists of newspaper, cardboard, bones, scrap metal (including tins, etc.)

The constant Government demand for Salvage without additional labour being available requires constant attention to be paid to the needs of public health, as opposed to the needs of the Ministry of Supply. Complaints directed against the Cleansing Dept. Staff (one-third of requirements) for not carrying out both public health and salvage work with 100% efficiency, do not assist the obtaining or retention of labour. It is noticeable that the least physical assistance comes from certain bodies and persons who believe that they assist the war effort by persistent complaint.

(iv) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The particulars given under this Heading should be for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report:-

Total number of complaints received 148
(plus Joint Scavenging Complaints which are innumerable)

Total number of defects or nuisances discovered 80

Nature of inspections :-

	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Revisits</u>
Dwelling houses (all purposes)	420	-
Tents, Vans, etc.	2	-
Slaughter houses	5	Emergency Slaughter
Food premises	6	-
Dairies and Cowsheds	53	-
Offensive Trades	-	-
Animal Keeping	-	-
Workshops, etc.	20	-
Shops	22	-
Other premises	-	-
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NOTICES

<u>Preliminary</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
Outstanding on 1st. January	-	-
Issued during the year	50	24
Complied with during year	50	24
Statutory action necessary	-	-
Outstanding 31st. December	-	-

<u>Statutory</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
Outstanding on 1st. January	-	-
Issued during the year	-	-
Complied with during year	-	-
Outstanding 31st. December	-	-

Summary Action

Number of Summonses issued	-
Number of convictions obtained	-

The limitations on labour and material necessitate discretion to be applied to the question of major repair of structural defects.

(v) SHOPS

Action taken during the year under the Provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

Mainly rural shops, nothing to report.

(vi) CAMPING SITES

Nothing to report.

(vii) REGULATED BUILDINGS

<u>Common Lodging houses</u> in the District.	There are no Lodging Houses
x <u>Tents, Vans, etc.</u> 12 inspections were made. as being 'good'.	There are 31 in the District and General conditions were noted
<u>Canal Boats</u> the area.	There are no Canal Boats in
<u>Offensive Trades</u> in the area.	There are no offensive trades
x A large increase in the number of caravans has taken place by the placing of caravans in the country as a refuge from bombing of the town. Most of these are occupied by the wealthier classes and produce no danger to public health . Occupation is periodic and not permanent.	

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Nothing to report.

(ix) SCHOOLS

The Sanitary conditions are
mainly fair. The water supply to Burton Overy School
is very unsatisfactory.

(x) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

There are no publicly owned
Baths and Pools in the area.

There is one privately owned
swimming pool in the area, which is spring fed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

	<u>Cowkeepers</u>	<u>Dairymen or Furveyors of Milk other than Cowkeepers</u>
Number on the Register	120	45
Number of inspections of premises	50	30
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year... ..	4	-

	<u>Cowkeepers</u>	<u>Dairymen or Surveyors of Milk other than Cowkeepers</u>
Number of contraventions found during the year	2	-
Number of contraventions remedied during the year	3	2
Number of contraventions outstanding 31st. December	-	-

Total Contraventions

	<u>Outstanding from previous year</u>	<u>Bound during the year</u>	<u>Remedied during year</u>	<u>Outstand- ing on 31st. Dec.</u>
Cleansing	-	4	4	-
Structural	-	-	-	-
alterations	-	-	-	-
Utensils	-	-	-	-
Other	-	1	1	-

MILK SAMPLING

No milk samples have been taken during the year

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS 1936 and 1938

No licenses have been issued by the Local Authority.
The County Council is the licensing Authority.

Shortage of material and labour prevent much attention being paid to the reconstruction of cowsheds. It is noteworthy that the additional work imposed on farmers by reason of conversion of grass to arable land, together with general labour shortage has not appreciably affected cowshed cleanliness.

The removal of manure heaps from the proximity of cowsheds is the principal increasing fault.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

No regular slaughtering is carried out in the District.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total weight in lbs.
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number Inspected	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	150
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-

ILLICIT SLAUGHTERING

Number of investigations 16

Constant attention with the willing help of the police is being paid to the matter of illicit slaughtering, which has undoubtedly increased with the rationing of meat. A legal quibble on the weakness of notice of emergency slaughter prevented prosecution of an offender caught at night killing sheep.

H O U S I N G

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	76
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	76
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-Head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	76
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	150
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	61

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	50
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

No action was taken during the year.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING:-

(a)	(i)	Number of dwelling overcrowded at the end of the year	
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year... ..	
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year... ..	See (e) below
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Sanitary Inspector may consider it desirable to report:-	

Although the official placing of evacuees is carried out with due regard to overcrowding, a tendency during raiding periods for evacuees to invite friends or relations, produces periodic overcrowding which is difficult to control. Local Billleting Officers have been asked to report such cases.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the
year 1940

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	4	4	-
Diphtheria	6	6	1
Pneumonia	4	-	-
Erysipelas	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	7	-	-
Measles	113	-	-
Acute Anterior Polioomyelitis	1	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality During 1940

	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Under one	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
5 -15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	3	1	1	-	-	-	1

